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SENATE MEMORIAL 51

**48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

INTRODUCED BY

Shannon Robinson

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO URGE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO MAINTAIN FUNDING FOR URBAN INDIAN HEALTH PROGRAMS IN THE 2008 FEDERAL BUDGET IN ORDER TO AVERT A HEALTH CRISIS.

WHEREAS, the president of the United States, in his 2008 budget, has proposed to terminate all funding for urban Indian health programs under "major savings and reforms"; and

WHEREAS, this unilateral decision to terminate all funding for urban Indian health programs has been made without consultation with American Indian communities, the states, urban Indian health centers or the patients served by urban Indian health programs; and

WHEREAS, no research has been done that would support the efficacy of this decision to terminate all funding for urban

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1 Indian health programs; and

2 WHEREAS, in the Albuquerque metropolitan area alone,  
3 thirty-five thousand of the fifty thousand American Indians  
4 living there are uninsured; and

5 WHEREAS, American Indians suffer significantly higher  
6 rates of serious health conditions, such as diabetes and  
7 tuberculosis, and higher suicide rates than the general  
8 population, and in the greater Albuquerque urban area, nearly  
9 one-half of American Indians live below the poverty level and  
10 more than one-half reside in single-parent homes; and

11 WHEREAS, urban American Indians are ineligible to receive  
12 health care on reservations and rely on urban Indian health  
13 programs for their health and dental needs; and

14 WHEREAS, all other urban health care providers, such as  
15 those in Bernalillo county, are already overloaded with  
16 uninsured patients who have no access to alternative health  
17 care; and

18 WHEREAS, the president's decision to terminate funding for  
19 urban Indian health programs will place an inequitable burden  
20 on the taxpayers of New Mexico and on the remaining health care  
21 providers; and

22 WHEREAS, the country's obligation to fund health services  
23 for American Indian beneficiaries is founded in treaty, statute  
24 and the United States constitution;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE

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1 OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico congressional delegation be  
2 requested to urge the United States congress to maintain  
3 funding for urban Indian health programs in the 2008 federal  
4 budget; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
6 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of health, the  
7 Navajo Nation, the all Indian pueblo council, the members of  
8 New Mexico's congressional delegation, the United States  
9 secretary of health and human services and the director of the  
10 Indian health service.